**Irish Kennel Club**

**Good Citizen Test**

**Fees for taking the IKC Good Citizen Test:**

**Puppy Foundation Award €10 per puppy**

**Bronze Award €10 per dog**

**Silver Award €10 per dog**

**Gold Award €10 per dog**

**Titles:**

Successful participants in the Puppy, Bronze, Silver and Gold Tests are entitle to add GCP, GCB, GCS and GCG after the dogs I.K.C. registered name.

**Assessors:**

* Anyone scheduling a Good Citizen test should avoid any potential conflict of interest when appointing Assessors.
* Assessors should not be involved in coaching or instructing the teams being assessed.
* Assessors should not be directly related to or living in the same house as any of the teams being assessed

**PUPPY FOUNDATION AWARD**

**THE AIM**

The IKC Good Citizen Puppy Foundation Scheme award aims to provide a means of socialising puppies and to lay down a foundation for education and training.

To compete for this award puppies must respond to their handler and the handler must show an awareness of the responsibilities of dog ownership.

The inclusion of play adds an extra dimension to a puppy's life and can be used to make training fun. Constructive play and suitable incentives are encouraged within this puppy training programme.

**ELIGIBILITY**

This Award is open to all dogs from 14 weeks up to a maximum of 12 months old. The test will be comprised of 10 exercises. A puppy foundation certificate will be awarded when the puppy has reached the required standard to pass each of the exercises. The Assessor will enter the comment "Passed" or "Not Ready" alongside each exercise. To be eligible to receive this award the puppy must receive the comment "Passed" for all exercises. The puppy must not show any aggression towards handler, Assessor or other dogs. Any sign of aggression or undue fear will render the puppy "Not Ready".

Puppies should not reach the maximum age before the completion of this test. Puppies who obtain this award should be encouraged to participate in the Bronze Award Scheme.

Owners will be required to show that their dog is wearing an identity disc with their contact details or dogs will be scanned for proof that they have been microchipped. Owners must also show that they have the means of cleaning up after their dog.

Food, toys and physical as well as verbal praise can be used throughout.

**ASSESSMENTS**

A Good Citizen Puppy Foundation Award will be issued once the puppy has successfully demonstrated an ability to obtain the comment "Passed" for all ten exercises outlined below.

The Assessor will enter the comments "Passed" or "Not Ready" against each exercise. In each exercise any display of aggression or undue fear will render the puppy "Not Ready”.

An Assessor should be proposed by the Club/Organisation/Individual Trainer arranging the Test. Assessors to include all approved Judges on the Irish Kennel Club Obedience, Agility or Working Trials lists, Field Trial Judges, Dog Wardens and any other person approved by the Agility, Obedience and Working Trials Committee of the Irish Kennel Club for this purpose.

The onus is on the Test organisers to provide microchip scanners for each Test.

**EXERCISES**

Dogs to be presented for testing on a flat collar and lead.

As with the Bronze, Silver Award and Gold Award the Puppy Foundation Award will be non competitive but the Assessor should be satisfied that the dog being examined is well behaved and under the control of the handler at all times. Dogs should be permitted to undertake each exercise only once. An Assessor should be proposed by the Club/Organisation/Individual Trainer arranging the Test.

The Puppy Foundation Award is comprised of 10 exercises as follows:

**EXERCISE 1: CLEANLINESS AND IDENTIFICATION**

Each handler will be obliged to show that they have poop scoop or bags with them and are aware that there is a legal requirement for them to carry these at all times whilst walking their dog. They will also be required to show that their dog is wearing an identity disc with their contact details or dogs will be scanned for proof that they have been microchipped. Dogs on the current Restricted Breeds List should adhere to the rules governing these breeds ie dogs on the List should be handled by a person over 16 years of age capable of controlling them and should be muzzled when in a public place.

**EXERCISE 2: ATTENTIVE RESPONSE TO NAME**

This exercise should be carried out on lead. The puppy should respond to their name when called and pay at least brief attention. This is not a recall exercise. The puppy is not required to return to the handler but should demonstrate recognition of their name.

**EXERCISE 3: PLAY WITH PUPPY**

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the puppy will play with the handler. When invited to do so the handler should initiate play with the puppy. Play should be under the handler's control at all times. The puppy should readily give up articles when instructed to do so.

**EXERCISE 4: SOCIALISATION**

**1. WITH A PLACID DOG UNKNOWN TO THE PUPPY**

The puppy should be carefully introduced to the unknown dog on lead. Relative size of the two dogs should be considered. Aggressive behaviour or demonstration of undue fear should render the puppy "Not Ready" to pass this exercise.

**2. WITH AN ADULT PERSON UNKNOWN TO THE PUPPY**

The puppy should be carefully introduced to an unknown adult. They should gently make friends with the puppy without being overbearing. Backing off or undue display of fear should render the puppy "Not Ready" to pass this exercise.

**3. WITH NOISE DISTRACTION**

The puppy should not be excited or startled by everyday noises. With the puppy on lead suitable noises should be made several paces from the puppy ie Assessor clapping hands. Undue display of fear should render the puppy "Not Ready" to pass this exercise.

Note: the puppy is allowed to react to a noise. It is the speed of recovery that is important. The puppy should be allowed time to recover and complete the exercise.

**EXERCISE 5: PUPPY HANDLING AND INSPECTION**

The puppy should allow handling, inspection and grooming of its body, ears, paws, mouth, and eyes, by the handler. Mild fidgeting and avoidance is permissible. This test should be conducted on lead. Undue display of fear or aggression should render the puppy "Not Ready" to pass this exercise.

**EXERCISE 6: PUPPY RECALL**

This test should be conducted in an enclosed area. The handler should distance themselves two to three paces away from the dog. They should call, praise and secure the puppy. If necessary this exercise may be conducted away from the distraction of other dogs. Any incentive to encourage the puppy to return to the handler may be used eg toy, food. The handler may back away from the puppy once they have called the puppy in the recall. If the puppy fails to go happily to the handler it should be rendered "Not Ready" to pass this exercise.

**EXERCISE 7: BASIC PUPPY POSITIONS**

The puppy should demonstrate that it is capable of understanding basic position commands ie sit, stand, down. Any incentive to encourage the puppy into these positions may be used eg food, toy. Minor movements are acceptable. The puppy will be required to adopt each position only briefly.

**EXERCISE 8: WALKING IN A CONTROLLED MANNER**

This exercise should be carried out on lead. With no distractions, the puppy will be required to walk approximately 5 metres and turn. The puppy should demonstrate that they are able to walk in a controlled manner without pulling uncontrollably on the lead. A tight lead should not necessarily render the puppy "Not Ready" to pass this exercise.

**EXERCISE 9: STAY FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 SECONDS**

The puppy should be on lead for this exercise and may carry the exercise out in any position. Changing position during this exercise should be permissible but moving towards the handler will render the puppy "Not Ready" to pass this exercise. The Handler may talk to the dog during this exercise. The distance for this exercise should be within 3-5 metres.

**EXERCISE 10: TAKE ARTICLE AWAY FROM THE PUPPY**

Puppies should learn that they should give up articles when required. An article should be given to the puppy who should give it up when required to do so. The article should be of the handler's choice but may not be food. If the puppy refuses to take an article from the handler, an alternative article may be provided. However, if the puppy shows an unwillingness to take any article it should be deemed "Not Ready" to pass this exercise.

Note: Taking an article away: some puppies may have no interest in a variety of articles. This in itself can be a good thing and the puppy should not be deemed ‘not ready’ through lack of interest. This is better than the puppy being possessive. Therefore any number of auricles and methods may be used to encourage the puppy’s interest.

**THE AWARD**

The dog should pass all areas of the Test in order to qualify for the Irish Kennel Club Puppy Foundation Award. This award will consist of a Good Citizen Puppy Foundation Award rosette and Certificate.

**BRONZE AWARD**

**THE AIM**

The Bronze Award aims to produce a dog that will walk and behave in a controlled manner.

**ELIGIBILITY**

There should be no age limit for dogs taking the Bronze Award Test and no requirement for them to have taken the Puppy Foundation Award test in advance of applying. Owners/handlers will be required to show that their dog is wearing an identity disc with their contact details or dogs will be scanned for proof that they have been microchipped. Each handler will be obliged to show that they have poop scoop or bags with them and are aware that there is a legal requirement for them to carry these at all times whilst walking their dog. Dogs on the current Restricted Breeds List should adhere to the rules governing these breeds ie dogs on the List should be handled by a person over 16 years of age capable of controlling them and should be muzzled when in a public place.

Food, toys and physical as well as verbal praise can be used throughout.

REWARDS MAY BE CARRIED IN HANDLERS POCKET. THE DOG CAN BE REWARDED AT THE **END** OF EACH EXERCISE.

This Award is open to all dogs.

**ASSESSMENT**

This test should be non competitive but the Assessor should be satisfied that the dog has reached the required standard to carry out the exercises outlined above in a satisfactory manner. Each exercise will be marked passed/Not Ready. The dog should pass each exercise to qualify for the award.

An Assessor should be proposed by the Club/Organisation/Individual Trainer arranging the Test. Assessors to include all approved Judges on the Irish Kennel Club Obedience, Agility or Working Trials lists, Field Trial Judges, Dog Wardens and any other person approved by the Agility, Obedience and Working Trials Committee of the Irish Kennel Club for this purpose.

The onus is on the Test organisers to provide microchip scanners for each Test.

**EXERCISES**

Dogs to be presented for testing on a flat collar and lead.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TEST NO. 6 & 7, ALL THE FOLLOWING TESTS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE ASSESSOR.

1.

(a) Ensure that collar is correctly fitted.

(b) Presence of Identification – Disc, Tattoo or Microchip.

(c) Pooper Scooper available.

2. Walk on a loose lead and in a controlled manner. Dogs

can walk on either left or right hand side of handler.

Test to include the presence of distractions at a distance

of approx 3 m. (jogger running past, noise ie clapping

of hands)

3. Behave in a controlled manner, on a loose lead, whilst

walking past a person walking with a dog on a lead.

4. Behave in a controlled manner, on a loose lead, whilst

handler holds a short conversation with a person who

has a dog on a loose lead. The Dogs to be in Sit or Down

position during the conversation. Duration 1 minute.

5. Lie down and stay on command. The lead may be left

attached to the dogs collar and placed on the ground

beside the dog. Handler will leave dog and walk a

distance of 3 metres, turn and face the dog. Handler

returns on command. Extra commands may be given.

Duration 1 minute, dogs to be tested individually.

6. Grooming – this will be done by the handler and the

Assessor will observe.

7. Handler presents the dog on a lead for a cursory

examination of coat, teeth, ears and feet - this will be

done by the handler and the Assessor will observe.

8. Recall or Stop on command. Dog to be released from lead,

when the dog is a short distance away the Assessor will

instruct the handler to control the dog by either recalling or

stopping the dog on command (recall or stop is at the discretion

of the handler). In a recall the dog should rejoin the handler

and take the sit or down position, and have the lead re-attached.

In the stop on command the dog should take up a stand, sit or down

position until the handler joins the dog and re-attaches the lead.

A toy may be used to gain distance from the handler.

**THE AWARD**

The dog should pass all areas of the Test in order to qualify for the Irish Kennel Club Bronze award. This award will consist of a Good Citizen Bronze Award rosette and Certificate.

**SILVER AWARD**

**THE AIM**

The Silver Award aims to build on the skills learned for the Bronze Award whilst increasing the difficulty. It is a natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new exercises such as road walking exercises which are a part of everyday life.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Handlers applying to take the Silver Award Test must already have completed and passed the Bronze Award Test. As in the Bronze Award Test, owners will be required to show that their dog is wearing an identity disc with their contact details or dogs will be scanned for proof that they have been microchipped. Each handler will be obliged to show that they have poop scoop or bags with them and are aware that there is a legal requirement for them to carry these at all times whilst walking their dog. Dogs on the current Restricted Breeds List should adhere to the rules governing these breeds ie dogs on the List should be handled by a person over 16 years of age capable of controlling them and should be muzzled when in a public place.

Food, toys and physical as well as verbal praise can be used throughout.

REWARDS MAY BE CARRIED IN HANDLER’S POCKET. THE DOG CAN BE REWARDED AT THE **END** OF EACH EXERCISE.

**ASSESSMENT**

As with the Bronze Award, the Silver Award will be non competitive but the Assessor should be satisfied that the dog being examined is well behaved and under the control of the handler at all times. An Assessor should be proposed by the Club/Organisation/Individual Trainer arranging the Test.

Assessors to include all approved Judges on the Irish Kennel Club Obedience, Agility or Working Trials lists, Field Trial Judges, Dog Wardens and any other person approved by the Agility, Obedience and Working Trials Committee of the Irish Kennel Club for this purpose.

The onus is on the Test organisers to provide microchip scanners for each Test.

**EXERCISES**

Dogs to be presented for testing on a flat collar and lead.

This award should consist of the following exercises:

1. **PLAY WITH YOUR DOG**

The handler should be instructed, on command, to initiate play with their dog. Play forms a very important part of a dog’s training and can make training fun. Play should be under the control of the handler and should include articles that will be readily be given up by the dog on command. The play exercise should not include a formal retrieve or play fighting.

It is recommended that the Assessor commences with this test.

**2. RECALL**

Leaving the dog in a sit, down or stand position (at the Handler’s discretion). Walk approx 10 paces away. Call the dog to heel. Minor anticipation will be allowed but the dog should remain sitting until called.

**3. CONTROLLED GREETING**

The Assessor should act as if they are visiting the handler's home. The dog should greet in a controlled manner ie should not jump up. If the dog does jump up, the handler should command the dog and bring the dog back under control. The dog will pass once it is evident that they are under control.

**4. VEHICLE CONTROL**

For this exercise the dog should be taken to a stationary vehicle on lead. On command the dog should be put into the vehicle (either by jumping in willingly or with assistance from the handler). Once the dog is in the vehicle, the handler and Assessor should get into the vehicle and the engine should be turned on. At all times the dog should remain calm and under control. The dog should wear an appropriate restraining device as required by law eg travel harness etc. The use of a cage for travelling will also be acceptable for this exercise. At the end of the test the dog should be taken from the vehicle in a controlled manner remaining calm at all times.

**5. COME AWAY FROM DISTRACTIONS**

The dog is to be taken by the handler to a group of other handlers with their dogs on lead. The dog should be taken off lead and allowed to run towards or follow a distraction (eg Assessor with toy). The handler should walk or run away calling the dog to heel. The dog should leave the group immediately on command and return to the handler. The dog should sit in front of handler until the lead is re-attached. Only dogs of sound temperament should be encouraged to carry out this exercise

**6. SIT/DOWN/STAND STAY**

This exercise should be conducted for two minutes. The dog will be required to stay whilst something/someone moves quickly past the dog. Handler to return to dog and release when time is up.

**7. FOOD MANNERS**

The dog should behave in a controlled manner whilst the Assessor/Stranger eats or handles food. The dog should be taken close to the food but should react in a controlled manner ie not begging or jumping up. Part of the test should include the Assessor approaching the dog's food, chew etc. The dog should show no overt aggression or ideally should move away from the food source. This exercise is to demonstrate the dog has no problems around food where people are concerned.

**8. EXAMINATION OF THE DOG**

The dog will be required to undergo an examination of their mouth, teeth, throat, ears, eyes and feet as may be required during a visit to the vet. The dog should remain calm and offer nothing more than very mild resistance to the owner/handler during this exercise.

**9. RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE**

At the beginning of each Gold Award training course a copy of the Canine Care and Responsibility will be made available to each handler so that handlers may familiarize themselves with the document. Copies of this document will be available on the IKC website for access by those not attached to a club or a trainer

**THE AWARD**

The dog must pass all areas of the Assessment in order to qualify for the Irish Kennel Club Silver award. This award will consist of a Good Citizen Silver Award rosette and Certificate.

**GOLD AWARD**

**THE AIM**

The Gold Award aims to build on the skills learned for the Silver Award whilst increasing the difficulty. It is a natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new exercises such as sending the dog to bed, stop the dog from a distance and relaxed isolation.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Handlers applying to take the Gold Award Test must already have completed and passed the Silver Award Test. As in the Bronze and Silver Award Test, owners will be required to show that their dog is wearing an identity disc with their contact details or dogs will be scanned for proof that they have been microchipped. Owners must also show that they have the means of cleaning up after their dog. Dogs on the current Restricted Breeds List should adhere to the rules governing these breeds ie dogs on the List should be handled by a person over 16 years of age capable of controlling them and should be muzzled when in a public place.

Food, toys and physical as well as verbal praise can be used throughout.

REWARDS MAY BE CARRIED IN HANDLER’S POCKET. THE DOG CAN BE REWARDED AT THE **END** OF EXERCISES 1-7 INCLUSIVE.

**ASSESSMENT**

As with the Silver Award, the Gold Award will be non competitive but the Assessor should be satisfied that the dog being examined is well behaved and under the control of the handler at all times. Dogs should only be permitted to undertake each exercise only once. An Assessor should be proposed by the Club/Organisation/Individual Trainer arranging the Test.

Assessors to include all approved Judges on the Irish Kennel Club Obedience, Agility or Working Trials lists, Field Trial Judges, Dog Wardens and any other person approved by the Agility, Obedience and Working Trials Committee of the Irish Kennel Club for this purpose.

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**EXERCISES**

Dogs to be presented for testing on a flat collar and lead.

1. **RECALL**

**A:**

Leaving the dog in a sit, down or stand position, (at the Handler’s discretion) walk approx 10 paces away. Call the dog to heel. Minor anticipation will be allowed but the dog should remain in position until called.

**B:**

The dog should be taken by the handler to a group of other handlers with their dogs on lead. The dog should be taken off lead and allowed to run towards or follow a distraction (eg Assessor with toy). The handler should walk or run away calling the dog to heel. The dog should leave the group immediately on command and return to the handler. The dog should sit in front of handler until the lead is re-attached. Only dogs of sound temperament should be encouraged to carry out this exercise.

**2. HEEL FREE WALK BESIDE HANDLER**

The dog will be required to walk in a controlled manner beside the handler for approximately 40 paces. Competition heelwork is not necessary but is acceptable for this exercise.

3**. DOWN STAY IN AND OUT OF SIGHT**

The handler will be required to place the dog in the down position. The handler will take approximately 30 steps and stay in sight for one and a half minutes. Then go out of sight for half a minute. The dog should remain calmly in the down position throughout. The dog will be required to stay whilst something/someone moves quickly past the dog.

4. **SEND THE DOG TO BED**

The handler should have a blanket or item of clothing to use as the dog's bed, this will be placed approximately 20 paces away from the dog. On command the handler should send the dog to bed. The dog should go calmly to the bed area and remain there in any position ie sitting, standing or down until released.

**5**. **STOP THE DOG**

With the dog approximately 10 paces away from the handler and moving, the handler should stop the dog in any position. The dog should remain still in this position until released by the handler

**6. RELAXED ISOLATION**

The dog should be restrained and left in isolation for a period not exceeding 5 minutes. The handler should leave the room. The dog should remain calm and controlled throughout the test and upon the owner/handler's return. A mild level of excitement upon owner/handler's return will be permissible but jumping up or moving towards the owner/handler to greet upon return will be penalised and render the dog “Not Ready”.

**7. EXAMINATION OF THE DOG**

The dog will be required to undergo an examination of their mouth, teeth, throat, ears, eyes and feet as may be required during a visit to the vet. The dog should remain calm and offer nothing more than very mild resistance to the owner/handler during this exercise.

8. **FOOD MANNERS**

The dog should behave in a controlled manner whilst the owner/handler eats or handles food. The dog should be taken close to the food but should react in a controlled manner ie not begging or jumping up. Part of the test should include the Assessor approaching the dog's food, chew etc. The dog should show no overt aggression or ideally should move away from the food source. This exercise is to demonstrate the dog has no problems around food where people are concerned.

9**. RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE**

At the beginning of each Gold Award training course a copy of the Canine Care and Responsibility will be made available to each handler so that handlers may familiarize themselves with the document. Copies of this document will be available on the IKC website for access by those not attached to a club or a trainer

**THE AWARD**

The dog should pass all areas of the Assessment in order to qualify for the Irish Kennel Club Gold award. This award will consist of a Good Citizen Gold Award rosette and Certificate.